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OFFICIAL JOURNAL

GULF MISSION

CONFERENCE ١٣٢٠

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JOURNAL
OF THE
THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
GULF MISSION CONFERENCE

OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA,

Feb. 2-5, 1899.

Vol. II, No. 3.

JENNINGS, LA.
Times Printing House,
1899.

Officers of the Conference.

BISHOP S. M. MERRILL, President.

Chas. K. Woodson, Secretary; C. W. Campbell, Assistant.

L. W. Elkins, Statistical Secretary; J. G. Campbell, Assistant.

Julian Woodson, Treasurer.

CONFERENCE ROLL.

NAME.	POSTOFFICE.
Ashmore, E. L.,	Raymond, La.
Campbell, C. W.,	Crowley, "
Campbell, J. G.,	Lake Charles, La.
Chaney, P. C.,	Welsh, La.
Drown, P. A.,	Jennings, La.
Elkins, L. W.,	Jennings, "
Hoffpauir, Lastie,	Ebenezer, La.
King, Cyrus A.,	Lake Charles, La.
Lively, J. W.,	Marshall, Texas.
McCain, Henry H.,	St. Maurice, Texas.
Mock, Chas. E.,	Shelbyville, "
Pardee, Ira N.,	Jennings, La.
Paul, John,	Atlanta, Texas.
Robidoux, P. J.,	Crowley, La.
Scudday, H. G.,	Shreveport, La.
Sanders, P. H.,	Rodessa, Texas.
Wilson, Thos.,	Lake Charles, La.
Woodson, Chas. K.,	Port Arthur, Texas.
Woodson, Julian,	Hughes Springs, Tex.
Wyche, J. L.,	Hortense, Texas.
VanValkingburgh, F. D.,	Monroe, La.

Appointments, 1899.

LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT,

Cyrus A. King, Presiding Elder, Lake Charles, La.

Baldwin,	To be Supplied
Beaumont and Port Arthur,	Chas. K. Woodson
Beaumont Circuit,	Supplied by A. Plummer
Crowley,	C. W. Campbell
Ebenezer,	Lastie Hoffpauir
French Mission,	P. J. Robidoux
Gueydan and Midland,	Supplied by J. F. Ross
Hortense,	John L. Wyche
Jennings,	L. W. Elkins
Lake Charles,	J. G. Campbell
LaPorte,	Supplied by C. T. Barkaloo
Pinewoods,	Thos. Wilson
Raymond and Oberlin,	E. L. Ashmore
Texas City,	Supplied by E. H. Jenett
Welsh and Fenton,	Supplied by Asbury Wilkinson
Woodville,	Supplied by W. C. Mann

Ira N. Pardee, Temperance Agent, Member Jennings Quarterly Conference.

Chas. K. Woodson, President Baldwin Academy.

APPOINTMENTS--Continued.

MARSHALL DISTRICT,

J. W. Lively, Presiding Elder, Marshall, Texas.

Atlanta,	John Paul
Rodessa,	P. H. Sanders
Hughes Springs,	Julian Woodson
Jefferson and Overton,	To be supplied
Marshall and Noonday,	To be supplied
Mahon,	To be supplied
West Harrison,	To be supplied
State Line,	To be supplied
Shelbyville,	Chas. E. Mock
Provincial,	To be supplied
Pineville,	To be supplied
Red River and Monroe,	F. D. VanVolkingburgh
Lavonia,	To be supplied
False River,	To be supplied
Shreveport,	H. G. Scudday
Wynn,	H. H. McCain

OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

FIRST DAY, THURSDAY.

LAKE CHARLES, LA., FEB. 2, 1899.

Third Annual Session.—The Gulf Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church convened in its Third Annual Session, at Lake Charles, La., Thursday, February 2, 1899, at 9 o'clock a. m., in the Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Stephen M. Merrill, D. D., LL. D., presiding.

Opening Service.—Bishop Merrill opened the Conference by reading a lesson from the 34th Psalm, and a lesson from 1 John, 1st chapter, and announced Hymn 316, and proceeded with the Administration of the Lord's Supper, assisted by the Presiding Elders, C. A. King and J. W. Lively, after which the Conference joined in singing Hymn 248.

Roll Call.—The Secretary of the last Session, Chas. K. Woodson, called the roll of the Conference and the following brethren being present responded to their names: J. G. Campbell, Lastie Hoffpauir, Cyrus A. King, J. W. Lively, Thomas Wilson, Chas. K. Woodson, L. W. Elkins.

Election of Officers.—On motion of J. W. Lively, Chas. K. Woodson was re-elected Secretary. On motion of C. A. King, L. W. Elkins was elected Statistical Secretary and Julian Woodson was elected Conference Treasurer.

To Fix Time.—On motion of C. A. King the time of the regular session was fixed at 8:30 a. m. to 12 noon, the first half hour to be spent in devotional exercises.

Standing Committees.—The Presiding Elders nominated the following Standing Committees, which were approved:

Missions.—Presiding Elders and L. W. Elkins.

Church Extension.—C. W. Campbell, Julian Woodson, Thos. Wilson.

Sabbath Observation.—Thos. Wilson, C. E. Mock, E. L. Wells.

State of the Church.—J. W. Lively, C. A. King, J. G. Campbell.

Freedman's Aid.—E. L. Wells, C. E. Mock, E. L. Ashmore.

Sunday School and Tracts.—E. L. Wells, C. E. Mock, E. L. Ashmore.

Book Accounts.—J. G. Campbell.

Auditing.—P. J. Robidoux.

Education.—Chas. K. Woodson, C. W. Campbell, J. W. Lively, C. A. King.

Temperance.—J. L. Wyche, F. D. VanVolkingburgh.

Periodicals.—C. W. Campbell, F. D. VanVolkingburgh.

Epworth League.—L. W. Elkins, C. W. Campbell.

Publishing Minutes.—Secretaries.

Public Worship.—C. A. King, J. G. Campbell.

Introductions.—The following persons were introduced by the Bishop to the Conference: F. D. VanVolkingburgh, J. C. Pierce, B. F. White, pastor of the M. E. Church, South, John Paul, H. H. McCain and L. W. Elkins.

The Thirteenth Question.—Was the character of each Preacher examined?

The thirteenth question was taken up and Presiding Elder C. A. King was called and his character passed and he read his report. Presiding Elder J. W. Lively was called and his character passed and he made a verbal report. The Bishop enquired of the Presiding Elders if there was anything against the Elders in their districts, and when answered there was nothing against them, announced the passage of their character.

The following brethren were called and reported their work: Chas. K. Woodson, Thos. Wilson, J. G. Campbell, E. L. Welis, J. W. Lively (for Marshall charge.)

Transfers.—On motion of C. A. King the Conference requested the Bishop to transfer C. W. Campbell from the Missouri Conference to the Gulf Mission Conference.

The Bishop announced the transfer of C. W. Campbell from the Missouri Conference to the Gulf Mission Conference and his name was placed on the Conference roll.

The transfer of L. W. Elkins from the Erie Conference to the Gulf Mission Conference was announced and his name was placed on the Conference roll.

The Thirteenth Question Resumed.—The thirteenth question was resumed and C. W. Campbell and L. W. Elkins were called, their character passed, and they reported their work.

Lastie Hoffpauir was called, the Board of Examiners reported his case, his character passed, and he was advanced to the class of the second year.

On motion of C. A. King the Supplies were requested to give the condition of the work upon the charges which they served. A.

C. Williamson, Asbury Wilkinson and J. F. Ross were called and reported their work.

Address.—The Bishop addressed the Conference upon the general character and scope of the work in this field.

Conference Postmaster.—On motion of Charles K. Woodson, Lastie Hoffpauir was elected Conference Postmaster.

Elections.—C. W. Campbell was nominated and elected Assistant Secretary and J. G. Campbell was nominated and elected Assistant Statistical Secretary.

On motion of C. A. King, J. G. Campbell was excused from acting on the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society Committee, and E. L. Wells was elected to fill his place.

L. W. Elkins was appointed to lead the religious services Friday morning. After singing the Doxology, the announcements were made and the Conference adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Merrill.

SECOND DAY, FRIDAY.

LAKE CHARLES, LA., FEB. 3, 1899.

Religious Exercises.—The religious exercises were conducted by L. W. Elkins, Friday, 8:30 a. m.

Conference Roll.—The Conference roll was called and P. J. Robidoux, Chas. E. Mock and Julian Woodson responded.

Minutes Read.—The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Book Concern Dividend.—The Book Concern dividend of \$31 was announced and a draft on the Book Concern for \$31 was ordered and referred to the Conference Stewards.

A communication from the Treasurer of the Episcopal fund was read and referred to the Presiding Elders for distribution to the various charges.

Thirteenth Question Resumed.—The thirteenth question was resumed and Chas. E. Mock was called and reported his work. The Conference Board of Examiners reported on his grades, his character passed and he was advanced to the class of the second year.

The case of P. H. Sanders was represented by his Presiding Elder, and on motion he was continued in the class of the first year.

Discontinued.—On motion of C. A. King, J. H. Burger was discontinued.

P. J. Robidoux and Julian Woodson were called, their characters passed and they reported their work.

Admission on Trial.—John Paul was called, his examination was reported, and on motion of J. W. Lively he was admitted into the Conference on trial.

Henry H. McCain was called, his examination reported, and on motion of J. W. Lively he was admitted on trial.

The recommendation of Henry G. Scudday for admission was presented and on motion of Chas. K. Woodson he was admitted on trial. On motion of C. A. King, he was excused from the course of study, having passed the prescribed course of study in the M. E. Church, South.

Recognition of Orders.—The orders of Francis D. VanVolkingburgh were recognized and on motion of J. W. Lively he was admitted as an Elder from the M. E. Church, South, into full membership in the Gulf Mission Conference.

C. A. King called attention to an error in the minutes of last session as to the name of A. C. Williamson where he was stated to have been committed on trial. The error is hereby corrected.

F. D. VanVolkingburgh and N. L. Sayers were called and they reported their work.

On motion of C. A. King, J. W. Lively, I. N. Pardee, Chas. K. Woodson, C. W. Campbell and F. D. VanVolkingburgh were elected as Conference Stewards.

On motion of Charles K. Woodson the Committee on Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society was also made the Committee on Sunday School Union and Tracts.

Marshall, Texas, was chosen by unanimous vote as the place for holding the next session of the Conference.

Chas K. Woodson reported his account as publisher of the Conference Journal. The report was adopted.

On motion of C. A. King, 10 a. m. tomorrow was made a special order of the day for taking subscriptions to the minute fund.

The Committee on Temperance reported and the report was adopted.

Introductions.—Dr. J. M. Beard, of the Methodist Protestant Church, and W. H. Cline, of the Southwest Kansas Conference, were introduced.

On motion of C. A. King the Conference adjourned. After the announcement and the Doxology, the Conference adjourned with the benediction by J. W. Lively.

THIRD DAY, SATURDAY.

LAKE CHARLES, LA., FEB. 4, 1899.

Religious Exercises.—The religious exercises were conducted by C. W. Campbell at 8:30 a. m.

At the request of C. A. King, Ira N. Pardee was permitted to make a statement concerning his work as Temperance Agent.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

On motion of C. A. King, the Bishop was requested to re-appoint Ira N. Pardee Temperance Agent of the Conference.

On motion of C. A. King, a supernumerary relation was granted to E. L. Wells and P. C. Chaney.

Transfer.—P. A. Drown, of the Central Ohio Conference, was introduced to the Conference and made a statement of his Conference relation, and expressed his desire to be transferred to this Conference. On motion of C. A. King, the Conference requested Bishop Merrill to transfer P. A. Drown from the Central Ohio Conference to the Gulf Mission Conference. The Bishop announced the transfer of Phillip A. Drown and his name was added to the roll of this Conference; and on motion of C. A. King, he was granted a supernumerary relation.

Admission on Trial.—The name of Ellery L. Ashmore, recommended by the LaPorte Quarterly Conference for admission on trial was presented by C. A. King. Bro. Ashmore was allowed to make a statement.

The Board of Examiners reported on the examinations of Bro. Ashmore, and on motion of C. A. King, E. L. Ashmore was admitted on trial.

Orders Recognized.—On motion of C. A. King, the orders of E. L. Ashmore as an Elder (having been ordained an Elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church) were recognized upon his taking the additional vows.

Orders of the Day.—The orders of the day were taken up at ten o'clock and the roll was called for subscriptions to the minute fund as follows: C. A. King, \$5.00; J. W. Lively, \$5.00; J. G. Campbell, \$1.00; L. W. Elkins, \$2.00; Chas. K. Woodson, \$5.00; C. W. Campbell, \$2.00; P. J. Robidoux, \$3.00; Thos. Wilson, \$5.00; Julian Woodson, \$1.00; J. L. Wyche, \$1.00; C. E. Mock, \$2.50; F. D. VanVolkingburgh, \$2.00; P. A. Drown, \$1.00; John Paul \$2.00; H. H. McCain, \$1.00; E. L. Ashmore, \$1.00; L. Hoffpauir, \$1.00; N. L. Sayers, \$1.00; J. F. Ross, \$2.00; E. L. Wells, \$1.00; J. C. Pierce, \$1.00; cash, \$2.35.

Committee on Education.—The Committee on Education made its report, and on motion of P. A. Drown the report was ordered to be read and acted upon section by section. On motion of C. W. Campbell, the section relating to Baldwin Academy was adopted. On motion the section referring to school property at Jennings, La., was adopted. The section relating to a joint commission with the Austin Conference looking toward the location of a school of High Grade within the bounds of the coast country was amended, and on motion of F. D. VanVolkingburgh was adopted. The whole report was then adopted. (See report.)

Board of Conference Stewards.—The Secretary read the report of Ira N. Pardee in regard to the funds in his hands from the Book Concern dividend, and on motion the report was referred to the Board of Stewards for their action. The Bishop made a statement concerning the chartered fund and the Book Concern dividend fund. On motion of C. A. King, the management of all the funds belonging to the Conference Board of Stewards and the securing of charter was left in the hands of the Board of Stewards.

Reports.—The Committee on Church Extension reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on Sabbath Observance reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on Periodicals reported and report was adopted. (See report.)

Auditing Committee reported and report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society reported and report was adopted. (See report.)

The Bishop addressed the Conference on the subject of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society, strongly objecting to sectional terms, especially in connection with our Educational and Church work. The sentiments expressed by the Bishop were heartily received and approved by the Conference.

The Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts reported and report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on the Spiritual State of the Church reported, showing a healthy growth in all departments. The report was adopted. (See report.)

The Treasurer reported and report was adopted. (See report.)

The Statistical Secretary reported and report was adopted. (See Statistical tables.)

On motion of C. A. King, the name of P. J. Robidoux was added to the Committee on Missions.

The Triers of Appeals was announced by the Bishop as follows: I. N. Pardee, Chas. K. Woodson, C. A. King, J. G. Campbell, P. J. Robidoux, J. Woodson.

The Board of Church Location was announced as follows: Lake Charles District, J. G. Campbell, Ira. N. Pardee, W. Harry

Kistner, F. M. Syling. Marshall District, C. E. Mock, F. D. Van-Volkingburgh, Dr. John R. Caldwell, W. M. Hooten.

On motion the Conference adjourned to meet at 4 o'clock p. m. Benediction by P. A. Drown.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

LAKE CHARLES, LA., FEB. 4, 1899.

Religious Exercises.—The religious exercises were led by Thos. Wilson at 4 p. m.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

On motion \$100.00 was ordered apportioned to the various charges for Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society collection.

Communications were received from Rev. Logan Rogers, now nearing the end of this life, and L. Ketch, who has been sick for a long time, requesting the prayers of the Conference in their behalf. The Bishop called upon Cyrus A. King to lead the Conference in prayer in answer to these requests.

Reports.—The Committee on Epworth League reported. The report, after it was amended, was adopted. (See report.)

On motion of J. G. Campbell, a commission was ordered consisting of the Presiding Elders, P. J. Robidoux, with the Pastors of Crowley and Jennings, to consider the location of a school among the French people.

Board of Examiners.—The following Conference Board of Examiners was appointed by the Bishop and announced: Chas. K. Woodson, Ira N. Pardee, L. W. Elkins, F. D. VanVolking-

burgh, J. Woodson, Thos. Wilson, J. G. Campbell, C. W. Campbell.

Conference Board of Church Extension.—The Conference Board of Church Extension was appointed and announced as follows:

J. G. Campbell, President.

E. Hammond, Vice-President.

L. W. Elkins, Secretary.

G. M. King, Treasurer.

Additional members, S. A. Knapp, Chas. K. Woodson, Willis Weber, Ira N. Pardee.

Ex-officio members, C. A. King and J. W. Lively, Presiding Elders.

Missionary Sermon.—J. G. Campbell was appointed to preach the annual Missionary sermon at the next session of the Conference, with C. W. Campbell alternate.

Missions.—The Committee on Missions made its report and the report was read by the Secretary.

Vote of Respect.—On motion of C. A. King, a vote of thanks was extended to the Pastor of Simpson M. E. Church, Lake Charles, Rev. J. G. Campbell, the Pastors of the Lake Charles Churches and to the people for extended courtesies, kind treatment and for our hospitable entertainment as a Conference.

On motion of C. A. King, an expression of appreciation of the visit and work of Bishop S. M. Merrill was given by a rising vote and a cordial invitation extended to him to visit us again.

On motion it was ordered that after the reading of the minutes and services of the Sabbath day and the reading of the appointments the Conference stand adjourned without day. After the announcements and Doxology and benediction by F. D. Van-Volkingburgh, the Conference adjourned.

Attest:

CHAS. K. WOODSON,
Secretary.

S. M. MERRILL,
President.

EVENING SERVICES.

Wednesday, 7:30. Sermon preached by F. D. VanVolkingburgh.

Thursday, 7:30. Annual Missionary sermon by L. W. Elkins.

Friday, 7:30. Church Extension Anniversary address by Bishop Merrill.

Saturday, 7:30. Sermon preached by John Paul.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

9:30. Annual Conference Love Feast, conducted by C. A. King.

10:30. Sermon, Text—Ephesians 4:11-13, by Bishop Merrill.

3:00. Epworth League Anniversary addresses by C. W. Campbell and L. W. Elkins.

7:30. Sermon by J. W. Lively, followed by a brief address by Bishop Merrill and reading of list of appointments.

Discipline Questions.

GULF MISSION CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Held in Lake Charles, La., February 2-5, 1899, Bishop S. M. Merrill presiding; Chas. Kay Woodson, Secretary, postoffice address, Port Arthur, Texas.

Question 1.—Who have been received by transfer and from what Conference?

Ans. C. W. Campbell, Missouri Conference; L. W. Elkins, Erie Conference, and P. A. Drown, Central Ohio Conference.

Question 3.—Who have been received on credentials, and from what Churches?

Ans. Francis D. VanVolkingburgh from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; E. L. Ashmore from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Question 4.—Who have been received on trial?

a. In studies of the First Year? Henry G. Scudday, who was excused from the course of study, E. L. Ashmore, John Paul, Henry H. McCain.

Question 5.—Who have been continued on trial?

a. In studies of the First Year? Patrick H. Sanders.
b. In studies of the Second Year? Chas. E. Mock and Lastie Hoffpauir.

Question 6.—Who have been discontinued? John H. Burger.

Question 13.—Was the character of each Preacher examined?

Ans. Yes, in open Conference.

Question 14.—Who have been transferred, and to what Conference?

Ans. C. P. W. Wimberly, West Nebraska Conference.

Question 22.—Who are the supernumerary Preachers?

P. C. Chaney, E. L. Wells, P. A. Drown.

Question 24.—Who are the Triers of Appeals?

Ira N. Pardee, Chas. K. Woodson, C. A. King, J. G. Campbell, P. J. Robidoux, J. Woodson.

Question 25.—What is the statistical report for this year?

(See statistical report.)

Question 26.—What is the aggregate of the Benevolent Collections ordered by the General Conference as reported by the Conference Treasurer? \$561.

Question 29.—Where are the Preachers stationed?

(See list of Appointments.)

Question 30.—Where shall next Conference be held?

Ans. Marshall, Texas.

REPORTS.

Education.

We rejoice in the increased interest throughout the Church for Education. The consecration of means was never so widespread, and shows the nearness of this cause to the heart of the people.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

In view of the beneficent work which is being done by the Board of Education in aiding needy students who otherwise could not obtain an education in our Colleges and Universities, we respectfully urge upon each Pastor the necessity of observing the second Sunday in June as Children's Day. Send for and use the special programme prepared by Dr. C. H. Payne, Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York.

BALDWIN ACADEMY.

We recommend to the kind consideration of this Conference Baldwin Academy under the control of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society and situated within the bounds of our Conference, and request that the interest of this institution be presented to our people and a collection be taken in every charge for the cause of "Public Education," to be turned over for its

support. We recommend that the collection now in the hands of the Conference Treasurer, taken for the cause of Public Education, be turned over to the President of Baldwin Academy.

We accept and approve of the settlement of our Educational affairs at Jennings, La., as effected and concluded by the action of the commission appointed at our last session under the sanction and co-operation of Dr. J. W. Hamilton, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and in consideration of this action we do hereby order the return and re-deeding of all property of whatsoever nature to the parties from whom we received it, through the proper authorized officers under the Charter of the Southern University; and that we further approve and agree to the financial settlement made and entered into by the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents of the Southern University whereby the affairs of the Southern University have been closed out and adjusted in full.

We further recommend that a commission composed of Chas. K. Woodson, James W. Lively and Cyrus A. King be appointed to meet with the commission appointed at the last session of the Austin Conference, looking toward the locating and the establishment of a School of high grade somewhere within the bounds of the Gulf Coast Country and taking such steps as are necessary to this end.

CHAS. K. WOODSON, Chairman,
C. W. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

Report of the Committee on Temperance.

The darkest spot in this fair land is the "open saloon." A crying shame, the curse of the age, a menace to our Christian civilization, it lingers among us as a relic of barbarism, a breeder of crime and the fruitful source of unnumbered evils. As a Church, we are against it; as a Conference we despise and abominate it, and as individuals we will use every honorable means, by speech, pen and vote, for its utter extermination.

As the "open saloon," like a fountain, sends forth the stream

of Intemperance, so we feel that while we by our lives, words and pens should endeavor to create a healthy public sentiment on the subject of Temperance generally, we should with one accord turn our heaviest guns against the saloon as it exists among us today.

F. D. VANVOLKINGBURGH, Chairman.

Church Extension.

Our Church Extension collections taken in our Churches, from the beginning of Nov. 1, 1897, the close of the last fiscal year of the board, aggregated \$376. To this our Conference adds this year \$125, making a total of \$501.

Ten Churches within our bounds have received aid up to Nov. 1, 1897, by donations, \$2150; loans, \$1575.

The part our Conference is to take, in both giving and receiving, is definitely fixed under provision of the Discipline, by the General Committee from year to year. For the ensuing year our Conference is asked to raise by collections, \$100. Our needy Churches may, on approved applications, receive \$400.

The amount of aid granted must depend on the amount of the collections taken, and cannot exceed the proportion above indicated. Interest, therefore, in our own Conference, as well as in the general cause, should inspire us to use all diligence to secure the full amount asked, and if possible go beyond it.

Church Extension and Missionary Work go hand in hand. The proportion asked is as \$1 to \$4. It should be remembered, however, that our Sunday schools, as well as Churches, give for Missions, while we rely wholly on the Church collections for Church Extension. Let us remember, also, that the voice of the pastor is the only living voice that can reach all our people and that, if any be silent, his people will neither hear nor care for this great cause. Intelligent interest in Missions should carry with it interest in Church Extension also; for it is estimated that of every five dollars annually contributed to Missions, one dollar comes from the Churches aided by our Board of Church Extension, during the last 32 years.

THOMAS WILSON.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Observance.

God gave the Sabbath to man in the beginning—man's nature needs the rest the Sabbath brings—even if the Bible were silent on the subject. But God's Word is explicit. The Fourth Commandment, beginning as none of the Decalogue does—"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy," etc., seeming as if men were prone to forget and hence fail to make the proper preparation for the right observance of the sacred day. Here is both a duty and a privilege for parents and children to honor God and get much profit to their own souls.

We, as ministers, deprecate the growing evil among otherwise good people of violating the Sabbath on the plea of necessity, the ox being in the ditch, when the ditch should have been filled up before the Sabbath came.

We also pledge ourselves to keep before the minds of our people the importance and necessity of Sabbath Observance, if they would develop a well rounded Christian Character. We also deprecate the habit of piling up during the busy work days the news of the day, and devouring it on Sabbath morning before Sunday School or Divine service. We look forward hopefully to the time when the Sabbath shall be a delight, the Holy of the Lord, honorable, and we shall honor Him, not doing our own ways, or finding our own pleasure, nor speaking our own words. Then shall we delight ourselves in the Lord, and he will cause us to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed us with the heritage of Jacob, our father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

T. WILSON,
C. E. MOCK.

Report on Spiritual State of the Church.

Your Committee on the spiritual state of the Church beg to report, that in many points of our Conference there is healthy and prosperous growth. We believe in the main that our people are truly religious. There are outlying sections which are needy, and are hungry for our evangelism. We were never confronted with such responsibilities in this land. We urge the duty of this Conference to be alive to our great call and press our work in these lands.

J. W. LIVELY,

C. A. KING,

I. N. PARDEE.

Report of Committee on Periodicals.

We recognize the value of Methodist literature in Methodist homes, and urge all the pastors to greater diligence in supplying this need. Especially do we urge the claims upon us, and the great value among the young people, of the Epworth Herald.

C. W. CAMPBELL.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts.

We recognize that in this, our great need, that the Sunday School Union and Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church are two great sources of help, and we should avail ourselves of their lavish benefits; and we must not forget to urge our people to lend a helping hand by their liberal contributions; and we recommend this Conference to approve the apportionments to us, and that they be apportioned by the Presiding Elders to the several charges, for Sunday Schools, \$59; for Tracts, \$5.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. WELLS,

C. E. MOCK.

The Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society.

We regard with profound gratitude the noble work which has been done in these regions through this Society, and so long as the dark cloud of ignorance hangs over the South, we will continue to do all in our power, by circulating literature and preaching sermons in behalf of the greatly needed helper in lifting the worthy poor of both white and black of the Southern States.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. WELLS,
C. E. MOCK.

Epworth League.

The necessity of cultivating a spirit of piety among our young people is recognized by all. No better means exists within our reach than the Epworth League, hence we hope each pastor will do what he can to promote the organization of Chapters whenever practicable. We recommend that a Committee on the organization of District Epworth Leagues be appointed from each district in the Conference as follows:

Lake Charles District:—C. A. King, Frank Jaenke, H. Buck, J. Judd, Stella Garrison, Effie Brown.

Marshall District:—J. W. Lively, C. E. Mock, G. B. Hines, R. M. States, Mrs. Anna Bell Hughes, Anna Bell Houtten.

C. W. CAMPBELL.

Auditor's Report.

I have examined the Presiding Elders' accounts and find that they exactly correspond with their receipts.

P. J. ROBIDOUX.

Treasurer's Report.

I. N. Pardee in account with the Gulf Mission Conference.

To draft received from the Book Concern Dividend.....	\$50 00
Invested so as to increase.....	48 00
	\$98 00
In my hands subject to order.....	\$50 00
One note bearing interest at 8 per cent obtained from the sale of rice, due Nov. 15th, 1899.....	\$48 00
	\$98 00
Making a total in my hands due the Board of Stewards....	\$98 00

I have arranged so as to re-invest this whole amount so as to double, I think, during the coming year.

I have the charter for the incorporation of the Board of Stewards drawn, and if approved by the Conference, it can be executed thereafter in a few minutes.

Respectfully,

February 2, 1899.

IRA. N. PARDEE.

Secretary's Financial Report.

LAKE CHARLES, LA., Feb. 2, 1899.

Chas. K. Woodson in account with the Gulf Mission Conference.

	DR.	CR.
To subscriptions,	\$62.00	
To advertising,	45.00	
To balance due,	8.85	
By balance (last year's account),		\$20.50
By printing 500 copies of Journal,		78.00
By postage and express,		5.35
By stationery,		1.00
By expense in securing "Ads,"		11.00
	\$115.85	\$115.85

Missions and Apportionments.

Lake Charles District.

Beaumont and Port Arthur,	\$200 00
Beaumont circuit,	50 00
Ebenezer,	50 00
Gueydan and Midland,	50 00
Hortense,	50 00
Lake Charles,	100 00
La Porte,	50 00
Pine Woods,	50 00
Raymond and Oberlin,	50 00
Texas City,	25 00
Welsh and Fenton,	50 00
Woodville,	50 00

Total,	\$775 00
--------	----------

French Mission.

Pastor in charge,	\$500 00
Superintendency and helper,	91 00
Total,	\$591 00

Marshall District.

To Marshall District,	\$200 00
Marshall,	75 00
Jefferson and Overton,	60 00
Mahon,	40 00
Provincial,	40 00
State Line,	50 00
Pineville,	60 00
Lavonia,	50 00
Red River,	100 00
Rodessa,	50 00

Total,	\$725 00
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Grand total,	\$2091 00
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Financial Statement.

Baldwin,	\$ 95 00	Missions,	\$259 00
Crowley,	102 00	Church Extension,	125 00
Ebenezer,	18 00	Sunday School Union,	19 00
French Mission,	45 00	Tract Society,	12 00
Gueydan and Midland,	12 00	Children's Fund,	15 00
Jennings,	66 00	Other Educa'l Objects,	128 00
Lake Charles,	41 00	Bible Society,	5 00
Lakeview,	16 00	Episcopal Fund,	31 00
La Porte,	10 00	Conference Claimants,	10 00
Pine Woods,	9 00	Other Benevolences,	5 00
Port Arthur,	23 00		
Raymond and Oberlin,	29 00		
Welsh and Fenton,	10 00		
Woodville,	7 00		
Atlanta,	14 00		
Hughes Springs,	23 00		
Marshall,	35 00		
Mahon,	9 00		
Shelbyville,	41 00		
Red River,	2 00		

Correction.

The name of Rev. E. H. Jewett was misspelled Jennett in the list of appointments.

The name of Rev. E. L. Wells was omitted from the Conference roll.

STATISTICS NO. 2--Lake Charles District.

CHARGES	Current Expenses							
	No. of Schools	No. of Officers and Teachers	No. of Scholars of all Grades	Average Attendance	Teachers Ch. Members or Probationers	No. Schol. Ch. Memb. or Probationers	No. Membs. S. S. Converted durg. Yr.	
B Idwin.....	1	8	30	22		3		20
Beaumont and Taylor's Bayou.....	3	7	50					
Crowley.....	1	13	90	57	13	20	2	40
Ebenezer.....	1	8	80	65	8	60		20
French Mission.....								
Gueydan and Midland.....	2	6	15	8	5	7		16
Jennings.....	1	17	120	80	15	30	1	68
Lake Charles.....	1	12	86	72	12		4	65
Lakeview.....	3		90	58	15			20
La Porte.....	1	13	75	45	5	1		40
Pine Woods.....								
Port Arthur.....	1	12	52	34	6		1	18
Raymond and Oberlin.....	2	15	86	68	15	65		36
Welsh and Fenton.....	1	7	24	20	3			20
Woodville.....								
Total.....	18	118	798	529	15	95	183	8363

Marshall District.

Atlanta.....	1	5	32	24	5	5	2	13
Hughes Springs.....	2	8	60	45	8	25		8
Livonia.....	3	14	99	85	14	37	26	15
Mahon.....	2	6	30	25	6		8	
Marshall.....	1	6	36	30	5			30
Provencal.....	1	5	20	20			8	10
Red River.....	2	7	35	22	3	2		3
Shelbyville.....	5	31	301	200	10	30	250	75
Total.....	17	82	613	451	10	71	319	119
Grand Total.....	35	200	1411	980	25	166	502	127
Last Year.....	27	134	1292	953	40	179	244	109
Gain.....	8	66	119	27		258	18	50
Loss.....					15	13		

STATISTICS NO. 4--Lake Charles District.

CHARGES	BENEVOLENT COLLECTIONS									
	MISSIONS					EDUC.				
	Church	Sunday School	Total	Board Ch. Extension	Sunday School Union	Tract Society	Freedmen A. & S. E. S.	Public Education	Children's Fund	Amer'n Bible Society
Baldwin.....	20		20	6	1	1		65		
Beaumont and Taylor Bayou.....										2
Crowley.....	19	31	50	19	3	1		20	7	
Ebenezer.....	10		10	7						1
French Mission.....	20		20	7	2	1		10		5
Gueydan and Midland.....	6		6	4						2
Jennings.....		35	35	15	2	1		1	4	5
Lake Charles.....		5	10	15	1	1				5
Lakeview.....	3	5	8	5	1	1				1
La Porte.....	5		5	2						1
Pine Woods.....	5		5	2		1			6	1
Port Arthur.....	10		10	5	1	1		5		1
Raymond and Oberlin.....	13	2	15	8				3	2	1
Welsh and Fenton.....	5		5	3	1					1
Woodville.....	5		5							2
Total.....	126	83	209	95	12	8		104	9	4
									6	10
										25

Marshall District.

Atlanta.....	5		5	3	1			3	1	
Hughes Springs.....	10		10	5	2	1		4		
Livonia.....										1
Marshall.....	10		10	5	1	1		5	6	1
Mahon.....	4		4							
Provencal.....										
Red River.....	1		1	1						
Shelbyville.....	12		12	12	3	2		10		
Total.....	42		42	26	7	4		22	6	2
Grand total.....	168	83	251	121	19	12		126	15	6
Last year.....	141	19	163	102	7	7	34	57	7	15
										7
Gain.....	27	64	88	19	12	5		69	8	
Loss.....						34			9	1

TREASURER'S REPORT.

CHARGES	Missionary Society		Church Extension		Sunday School Union		Tract Society		Children's Fund		Other Educational Objects		Bible Society		Episcopal Fund		Conference Claimants		Other Benevolences		Total Cash	
	20	30	6	1	1	7	10	65							2							
Baldwin.....																					95	
Beaumont and Taylor Bayou.....																					102	
Crowley.....	20	30	19	3	1										2						18	
Ebenezer.....	20	10	7												1						45	
French Mission.....	20		7	2	1										5						12	
Gueydan and Midland.....	6		4												2						66	
Jennings.....		32	15	2	1										3						41	
Lake Charles.....	15		12	1	1										2						16	
Lakeview.....	3	5	5	1	1										1						10	
La Porte.....	7		2												1						9	
Pine Woods.....	5		2		1										1						23	
Port Arthur.....	10		5	1	1										1						29	
Raymond and Oberlin.....	15		8							2					1						10	
Welsh and Fenton.....	5		3	1											1						7	
Woodville.....	5														2						14	
Atlanta.....	5		3												1						23	
Hughes Springs.....	10		5	2	1										1						35	
Marshall.....	10	6	5	1	1					6					1						9	
Mahon.....	4		4												1						41	
Provencal.....															1						2	
Shelbyville.....																						
Red River.....	1		12	3	2										2							
Livonia.....			1																			
Total.....	174	85	125	19	12	2	13	46	80						30	1	4	10	5		607	

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5
10
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Total
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STATISTICS NO. 3--Lake Charles District.

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